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INDO-PACIFIC FISHERIES COUNCIL

CURRENT AFFAIRS BULLETIN

ISSUED BY THE IPFC SECRETARIAT, FAO REGIONAL OFFICE, BANGKOK, THAILAND.

No. 7 JULY, 1952.

AUSTRALIA

More Japanese for Pearling Industry:- The Government has agreed to withdraw the ban imposed after the close of the World War II on Japanese taking further licenses under the Pearling Act, and the Pearling Industry at Broome can now employ Japanese workers.

General:- Mr. M. Blackburn, Research Officer, Fisheries Division, CSIRO, has been awarded the D.Sc. degree by the University of Melbourne.

CEYLON

Past year's Activities:- Attempts to produce a substitute for "Maldive fish" were successful, and a product labelled "Prestfish" is being planned to be put on the market. Mother-ship towing has brought hitherto inaccessible grounds within the daily reach of fishermen using indigenous craft. Efforts have also been made to popularise the use of hand winches in shore seining operations.

In the past year, the Government voted a sum of Rs.3,000,000/- for assistance to fishermen's co-operatives. With a view to relieving fisherman's distress due to seasonal unemployment during the monsoons, a Fishermen's Provident Fund is being created with the co-operation of the local leaders of the Catholic Church on the basis of a partial refund of the tithe collected in certain areas.

Consignments of *Trichogaster pectoralis*, *Helostoma temmincki* and *Tilapia mossambica* have been imported from Singapore to stock inland waters.

Expanded Technical Assistance:- The agreements concerning two Fish Harbour Specialists and one Marine Engineer Superintendent have been signed.

HAWAII

Officers' Movements:- Mr. Sette of the Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations, and Dr. Vernon Brock of the Hawaiian Fish and Game Bureau attended a meeting of fishery experts called by the South Pacific Commission at Noumea, New Caledonia, on March 11 (see elsewhere this issue).

Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations:- Quantitative analyses of zooplankton collected from the Central Pacific by POFI from January 1950 to March 1951 are reported to have revealed remarkable uniformity. The zooplankton averaged (by number): copepods 57%, chaetognatha 12%, tunicata 6%,

euphausiacea 5%, siphonophora 4% and foraminifera 4%. The greatest abundance both by number and volume of zooplankton occurred in the region of the equator, and the abundance was found to be correlated with inorganic phosphate, oxygen, temperature and thermocline depth.

The POFI prediction of the occurrence of Tuna population in a continuous band along the Pacific Equator has been proved to some extent by the high catches obtained by the motor vessel "Charles H. Gilbert" which specially surveyed the ground half-way between the Central American coast and the mid-Pacific to test the prediction. Scouring a 5,000 miles range, the "Gilbert" is reported to have taken yellow fin and big-eyed tuna so far from land as never before. A large purse seiner from San Francisco, the "Cavalieri" has been chartered by the POFI to test the feasibility of commercial exploitation of these new-found tuna stocks.

The programme of work for the ensuring year also includes a continuation of survey and investigation of equatorial yellow fin tuna stocks in relation to features of the equatorial current system, productivity determination, on a commercial basis, of equatorial long line fishing by vessel operating on a shore basis, and continuation of live bait studies.

HONG KONG

Fish Drier:- A modest but useful plant capable of drying 6000 lbs of fish in 30 hours has been installed close to the new Aberdeen Fish Market as a result of the efforts of Mr. J. Cater, Registrar of Co-operatives, Fr. J. P. McCarthy who is acting in an advisory capacity to the Government and Mr. J. Tausz, Refrigeration Engineer of Messrs. Gilman & Co. After being gutted, washed and salted, fish are loaded into trays which fit into upright trolleys which can be wheeled into the drying chambers. Each of the 12 trolleys can support 12 trays bearing 500 lbs of fish. A draught of air blows through the chamber at $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles per hour. The temperature is raised to 78 degrees inside the chamber while humidity is reduced to 50% and water is extracted from the fish at 56 lbs. an hour. Attached to the plant, there are also two cold stores each with a capacity of 125 tons, for storing the fish.

Vessel for Fisheries Research:- A 60 foot reseach vessel with a draught of 6.5 feet capable of making 9 knots, with a Crossley diesel engine, is under construction at Kowloon Dock for the joint Fisheries Research Unit of the Hong Kong University and the Fisheries Department which was announced early this year (Current Affairs Bulletin No. 5).

Export of Fish Fry:- Fish fry for pond-culture is being exported to Malaya, Thailand and Formosa.

INDIA

Japanese Trawler Continues good Catches:- The results of the half year's work for the period ending 26th March '52 of the Japanese trawler Taiyo Maru No. 17—a 270-ton vessel fishing in the Arabian Sea under the permission of the Goverment of India—have been quite encouraging. During this period, the vessel made 12 fishing trips in waters off Saurashtra and one off Travancore-Cochin Coasts. She landed 651.3 tons of fish, out of which 31 tons of Skates, Rays and other inedible varieties were thrown away. The vessel was out of port for 142 days and her average catch per day's absence from port was 4.6 tons and per day of actual fishing 6.2 tons. This high average catch indicates the richness of trawling grounds off Saurashtra Coast where most of the fishing was done. It also promises good commercial possibilities of trawling operations in these waters.

Expanded Technical Assistance:- Mr. F. Botke, Fish Culturist, has been acquainting himself with the conditions of some of the confined waters in Bengal and has initiated certain weed control experiments. Preliminary trials with chloroxone on water hyacinth have shown encouraging results, and large scale experiments are being planned.

INDONESIA

Co-operative:- Good progress is reported to have been made by the Indonesian Fisheries Cooparative Society since "motorized" outfits were introduced in its enterprise. A 47% increase in catch over 1950 has been recorded in 1951. The Society's inventory now includes 50 motorized vessels with an average capacity of 20 tons. It is stated that the Society is planning to establish a bank of its own with a capital of 30,000,000 rupiahs.

MALAYA AND SINGAPORE

Export of Fish Fry:- Culturable species of fresh-water fish are being sent to the West Indies, British Honduras, Gambia and Ceylon for stocking fish ponds.

1924 Code replaced:- New fisheries regulations which came into effect in 1951 have replaced the 1924 code.

PAKISTAN

Expanded Technical Assistance:- Mr. Nils Jangaard of Norway who has been selected as Commercial Fishery Consultant for East Pakistan will commence work in September. Recruitment of a Fish-Harbour Expert to work with Mr. Jangaard is in progress.

PHILIPPINES

Officers' Movements:- Mr. T.W. Burdon, Deputy Director of Fisheries, Singapore passed through Manila on 12th June en route to Hong Kong when he was shown round by the Director and the technical staff.

Past Year's Activities:- A post-war revival of long line fishing for tuna, and the mechanisation, extension of range, and powerful light appliance in lift net operations were some of the features of development of the Philippine Fisheries during the past year.

Oyster Farm Opened:- A 10,000 hectare oyster farm, the biggest in the Philippines, has been opened by the Bureau of Fisheries on the northern Pangasinan coast of Luzon Island.

Appropriation of P. 1,250,000 for Fisheries:- The 2nd Congress of the Republic of Philippines, in its First Session approved H.B. No. 963 which subsequently became Republic Act No. 685. The Act authorises the appropriation of P.1,250,000 for the establishment and maintenance of the branches of the Philippine Institute of Fisheries Technology and sub-stations of the Bureau of Fisheries in certain provinces of the Philippines. It provides for the establishment of 14 branches of the Philippine Institute of Fisheries Technology for instruction in fish preservation, fish culture and fish capture and the creation of 4 experimental and biological stations for the study of the principal commercial fisheries.

The committee on Fishing Industry of the House of Representatives also approved H. B. No. 3032 entitled, "An Act to authorize the President of the Philippines to set aside swamp lands not exceeding the aggregate area of 2,000 hectares for fish-culture by the graduates in fish-culture of the Philippine Institute of Fisheries Technology, authorizing the appropriation of funds for the purpose."

Clearance Certificates for Fishing Vessels:- According to Fisheries Administration Order No. 32 which has just been promulgated, every licensed commercial fishing vessel above 20 tons gross, before departing from its home port is obliged to secure a 'certificate of clearance' from the Bureau of Fisheries, Manila, or its district office if in the province. The certificate should contain the name of vessel, date of departure, destination (fishing ground) C.F.B. Licence number, method of fishing and the names of licensed fishermen and a statement that no contraband is carried. Violation of the Order would subject the offender to a fine from P. 25 to P. 50 and heavier punishments for repeated offence.

Popularising Preparation of Fish Products:- In order to popularise good methods of preparing fish products, the Fisheries Bureau has arranged demonstrations in home canning, etc., for interested institutions like the Culion Sanatorium.

VIET-NAM

Officers' movement:- Monsieur Serene, Director of the Oceanographic Institute at Nha Trang, has after a visit to Paris returned to Nha Trang for a new period of service at the Institute.

INDO-PACIFIC FISHERIES COUNCIL

Executive Committee's 4th Meeting:- The Executive Committee decided to hold its 4th Meeting (1951-52) at Bangkok in order to be able to participate in the close of the Fisheries Statistics Training Centre. M. Serene, vice-chairman, arrived on the 25th and Dr. Hardenberg, Member, and Dr. Villadolid, chairman, arrived on the 26th and 27th of July, respectively. In addition to their meeting and participation in the Training Centre's closing ceremony, the Committee hopes to visit Thai fishery establishments before leaving Bangkok.

Council Appointments:-

Food Technology and Marketing Sub-committee:

U.S.A. - MR. HAROLD E. CROWTHER, Washington, to replace DR. H. J. DEASON, pending the appointment of permanent member.

Administrative Correspondent:

CEYLON - E R A. DE ZYLVA ESQ., Acting Director of Fisheries, Galle Face, Colombo 3, Ceylon.

Editorial Committee for Preparation of Handbooks:

U.S.A. - MR. O. E. SETTE (pending other nomination).

Committee for Handbook on Processing of Fish:

MR. N. D. JARVIS of the Fish & Wildlife Service, Washington 25, D.C.

Recent Releases:-

Occasional Papers:

52/5 - "Conditions of Employment and Distribution of Earnings from Fishing Operations"

52/6 - "Commercial & Research Aspects of Oyster Cultivation in U.K., Holland and France"

52/7 - "Notes on Oceanographical Rerearch in Europe"

52/8 - "Potassium Iodate & Glucose as Agents inhibiting the Decomposition of Fish"

52/9 - "Control of the Quality of Salted Dried Fish"

Library Accession List No. 13-14.

Liaison:- Prospects of collaboration between the IPFC and the Oceanographical Committee in New Zealand were discussed by Dr. G.L. Kesteven during his recent visit to New Zealand during his home leave.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION

Papers of General Interest:-

1. 'Commodity Standards of Fishery Products"—completed by Hess
2. "Commercial Standards of Fresh Fisheries Products in Europe" by Hess—for consideration of the ECE working group.
3. "Fishery Products in the World's Food Supply" by Jul—to be published in the *Food Science Abstracts.*
4. "Mediterranean Fisheries" by Girard—to be published in the *FAO Fisheries Bulletin.*
5. Article on "Fish Detection Methods" under assembly by Mr. Kistjonsson of FAO Headquarters includes sections by D.H. Cushing on Echo Sounding and F. Devold on ASDIC. Sections on airial scouting and loran are also being added.
6. Information on "Fisheries Personnel" is being compiled by Mr. Rosa.

Indo-Pacific Fisheries Statistics Training Centre:- At its 2nd and 3rd Meetings the Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council recommended the development of a programme of technical instruction for the fisheries of the Indo-Pacific region. The importance of the problem of providing skilled personnel to carry out the many different activities in fishery industries has been recognized at national and international levels and the recommendations of the Council are being put into effect by a series of training projects being developed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations under its Expanded Technical Assistance Programme. The first of these, the Fish-culture Seminar in Indonesia, is mentioned elsewhere in this issue of the Bulletin. The second, dealing with statistics, opened in Bangkok on June 19. The Centre was officially declared open by the Honorable Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Luang Sunawinvivathna.

The Centre had trainees from sixteen countries and teritories of this region. The attendance was as follows :-

Borneo :	A.M. ANDERSON;
Burma :	U BA KYAW;
Cambodia :	SAO-LEANG;
Ceylon :	G.N. DE SILVA;
China :	TUNG CHIH-SHEN, CH'UNG YII-LIN;
Hong Kong :	AU LAI SHING, ROBERT HART;
India :	S. GEORGE, D.M. DESAI, P.P. KRISHNASWAMI, W J. HUSSAINI, B N. PRASAD;
Indonesia :	R.I. PADMASASMITA, SOESILO, H. SAANIN;
Japan :	T. YAMAMOTO;
Korea :	HAN JEUNG-KEUN;
Malaya :	THAM AH KOW, FOO FAH LIN, HEONG KOK HEE, ABDUL HALIM BIN ABU YAMIN, ABDUL SALAM BIN HAJI IBRAHIM;
Pakistan :	S.A.H. ZAIDI, M.A. SATTAR;
Philippines :	C.R. DIMEN;
Singapore :	WILLIAM K.H. TAN;
Thailand :	S. THIEMMEDH, P. YINGTAVORN, S PRASARTKETKARN, K. SUWANRATANA, T. CHARANPONG, S SRIWATNA;
Vietnam :	TRAN VAN TRI, TRAN VAN BACH.

The staff consisted of -

MR. BOON INDRAMBARYA, Thailand, Director;
DR. G L. KESTEVEN, F.A O , Co.-Director;
DR. V.G. PANSE, India
DR. C. P. G. J. SMIT, F.A O.
MONSIEUR J. ROYER, France } Lecturers.
MR S.K. BANERJI, INDIA

The instruction at the Centre was concerned primarily with the problems of collecting fishery statistics in the field, which necessarily involved problems concerning the planning of such field collection and, in particular, of designing sampling surveys where complete records cannot be obtained. The lectures included a group on the structure of the industry and the recognition of units,

a group on elementary statistics, a group on the planning of field collection programmes and on the organization of statistical services, and a group on the practical problems of collection in the field. Practical exercises have been carried out at the Centre, in relation to these lectures, more especially in the design of questionnaires and the instruction to field collectors. Two-thirds of the time (four weeks) of the Centre was devoted to lectures and practical exercises, and one third (two weeks) to practical field work during which surveys of various types were carried out in two important fishing centres near Bangkok.

Seminar on Brackish-water Fish-Culture in Indonesia came to a close on 15th June, 1952. Of the 18 participants, Messers Isnandar, R.I., Rustami, D.R., Samirun, W.R.M., Sukandi, M. and Sumarto, R. were from Indonesia; Messers. Devadas, P.D.D., George, V.T., Pillay, T.M. and Roy, C.A K. from India; Messers Boon-brahm, M., Pongsuwana U. and Sidthimunka, A from Thailand; Messers Chakraborty, S.K. and Sattar, M.A. from Pakistan; Messers Hsu, C.F. and Kao, H. from China, Mr. Acosta, S.A. from Philippines and Mr. Cao, T.B. from Vietnam. Three nominees from Japan could not join the Seminar. The lectures and demonstrations were so planned as to use Indonesian fish cultural methods as a means to elucidate the general principles which might be applied in the various countries represented by the participants. The texts of lectures were issued to the trainees in mimeographed form and these were supplemented with the IPFC Special Publications No. 1, *Fish-Culture in Brackishwater ponds on Java* by W.H. Schuster (in mimeo) and No. 2, *Fish Culture in Indonesia* by A.E. Hofstede, R.O. Ardiwinata and F. Botke. (in a provisional form). At the selected centres in West, Central and East Java, local extension officers demonstrated one special aspect of the industry at each place, such as *Chanos* culture, rearing of carp, paddy-cum-fish culture, fish-after-paddy, raising of *Tilapia* and prawns, fry collection, weed-control, hatchery work, sewage treatment, fish auction, etc.

Instruction was also given at the Laboratory for the Investigation of the Sea on the biology of the *Chanos* and the general limnological procedure. Free discussions took place on cultural methods in the various countries and the different experiences of some of the participants, and there were numerous valuable talks with the various workers in Indonesia which contributed not a little to the general enlightenment of the Seminar. Visits to the Botanical gardens, the Zoological Museum, the Institutes for Plant Breeding and Plant Diseases, the Rubber Research Station, the ancient Buddhist temple of Barubudur and a coral island, and the reception by the Governor of West Java with Javanese dance, music and a "wajang" performance (Javanese puppet-show) also added greatly to the edification and entertainment of the participants, who have gone back to their respective countries, better equipped for fish-culture work and with an international understanding of one another's problems in the Indo-Pacific area.

Latin American Fisheries Training Centre :- A nine-weeks course of Fisheries Training was held under the joint sponsorship of the Chilean Government and FAO in Valparaiso, Chile, in February-March 1952. Fifty trainees took part. The Centre included courses in Appraisal of Fisheries Projects, Fisheries Statistics, Administration, Economically important Families of Fishes, Sanitation of Fishery Products, Handling and Refrigeration, Fishing Methods, Craft and Gear, Canning and Curing, Living Aquatic Resources, Economics, Elements of Oceanography, Freshwater Fisheries, Extension Work, and Bibliography. Each trainee could choose a field of special interest, and classes were so arranged that the general classes were common to all, while special classes could be attended by the groups concerned. The trainees, instructors and interested members of the local public took part in two public forums organized by the Centre.

The lectures were distributed in about 1,500 mimeographed pages, which are likely to be issued soon by the FAO in book form.

Fisheries Statistics Meeting:- The Copenhagen meeting was attended by 45 delegates representing Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the U.K., the U.S.A., the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea. Two delegates from Cambodia were also scheduled to join the meeting.

Far East Regional Office, Bangkok :- *Officers' Movements:* Dr. Cecil Miles, whose appointment was announced in the previous issue of the CAB, arrived in Bangkok on the 2nd of June.

Visitors:- C.S. Brisbane of the Thoresen Motors, distributors for Books Ltd., London, called on 10th June and was advised on the question of large-scale transport of iced fish to Singapore

Change of Address:- Dr. G.L. Kesteven's new address after his transfer to Rome will be c/o Fisheries Division, F.A.O. of U.N., Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, Rome, Italy.

SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

Fisheries Conference :- The conference on fisheries of the South Pacific convened by the South Pacific Commission opened on 14th and continued to 22nd May, 1952. The meeting was attended by delegates appointed by the six Member Governments of the Commission as listed below:

Australia: G G. SETTER, W.A. EMPEY, E.N. KRUGER;

France: M. LEGAND, M. JACQUIER, P. SARLIN;

Netherlands: H. W. LEIDING, D.C. ZWOLLO;

New Zealand: C.G.R. McKAY;

U.K.: D.W. LE MARE, A.F.S. OHMAN;

U.S.: O.E. SETTE, VERNON BROCK.

Dr. G.L. Kesteven attended as Observer representing the Food and Agriculture Organization and the Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council.

The Commission was represented by:- DR. E.M. OJALA and MR. B.N. HANCOCK. Sir Brian Freestone, Secretary-General of the Commission, opened the Conference.

The principal task before the Conference was to define more precisely the work which should be undertaken by the Commission in the field of fisheries development. After making an appraisal of the fisheries of the region, using for this purpose the limited information available, the Conference recommended action to be taken for the development of these fisheries. The Conference adopted a report incorporating the results of its survey of the field and its recommendations; this report will be considered by the South Pacific Commission at its Tenth Session in October 1952.

The recommendations of the Conference relate to the role of fish in the diet of the people of the South Pacific region, to administrative and other actions for fisheries development, to research relating to fisheries resources, and to action to be taken specifically by the Commission in this field.

REVIEW

"Pemeliharaan Tambakan" :- in English: Cultivation of Kissing Gouramy (*Helostoma temmincki C.V.*) is the title of a pamphlet of 85 pages length published simultaneously in Bandung (Indonesia) and the Hague (Netherlands) by W. Van Hoeve. The author of the pamphlet is Raden Odjoh Ardiwinata, a senior officer of the Indonesian Inland Fisheries Service. In easy understandable Indonesian Malay, Mr. Ardiwinata gives a description of the fish, its feeding habits, its propagation in ponds, the rearing and

transportation of fry and of the growing of marketable fish. Discussed and described are also the methods of rearing *Helostoma* in wet paddy fields. Since the pamphlet is provided with an English summary of about 10 pages length, the foreign reader might with help of the numerous tables and figures—all with English texts—find the publication very useful as a reference book for the various details of importance for the cultivation in ponds, rice fields and open waters of this valuable food fish. — W.H.S.

GENERAL :

Underwater Photography :- The January issue of the Scottish Fisheries Bulletin reports the use of an electronic flash lasting only for $\frac{1}{150000}$ of a second which would enable photographs to be taken of fast-moving aquatic creatures before they have time to react to the light. In addition to the behaviour of different fish and bottom-living animals, other problems such as the shape and behaviour of fishing gear and scientific instruments in operation and the causes of echometer traces could be studied in this way.

Exchange of Scientists :- It is reported that fisheries scientists in Germany are interested in possibilities of exchanging scientists with other countries.

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